



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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FBIS-AFR-96-067

Friday

5 April 1996

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April 1996

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Burundi

Burundi: 15 Dead in 4 Apr Southern Province Rebel Attack

EA0504100996 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 0430 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yesterday, we informed you about the attack by criminal gangs in Makamba Province [southern Burundi]. The casualties yesterday afternoon mounted to 15 killed without distinction [as heard]. Mr. Jean-Baptiste Gahimbare, the governor of the province, had to cover a distance of 100 km to make a call from Gitega [central Burundi] yesterday.

Following the attack, services have been paralyzed and a large number of people have been forced to flee from their homes. Governor Gahimbare is launching a moving appeal to all those to can help to reduce his people's suffering. [passage omitted]

Burundi: Premier Nduwayo Reiterates No Talks With Rebel Leader

EA0404175496 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in English 1130 GMT 4 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo again yesterday rejected any negotiation with the warlord (?in essence) integrist [extremist] Leonard Nyangoma. Mr. Antoine Nduwayo was visiting yesterday the Commune of Bisoro neighboring with Gishubi, where peace and security has been undermined by armed groups. (Pierre) Ndikumagenge reports:

[Begin Ndikumagenge recording] Bisoro is one of the communes of Gitega that has so far remained calm. It is now home to 5,000 displaced people who fled the [words indistinct] Commune of Gishubi currently torn by clashes between order-keeping forces and gunmen.

Local authorities and the prime minister, Antoine Nduwayo, warned the people of Bisoro against infiltration by gunmen. They castigated the alliance of gunmen with the authors of the Rwandan genocide whose sole aim is to kill and destroy. At this point, Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo once more vehemently rejected any idea of negotiating with the warlord and integrist leader Leonard Nyangoma.

Answering to reporters' questions that the European-American joint mission which recently came to Burundi (?to) pressure the government to negotiate, Mr. Nduwayo said it should be highlighted once and for all, as the West refused to negotiate with the Nazi leader Adolf Hitler, so (?won't) Burundi Government negotiate with integrist Leonard Nyangoma. Mr. Nduwayo, however, indicated that the government will keep di-

alogue with foreign development partners so that they can understand this position.

[Word indistinct] to the aid blockade which donors have decided against Burundi, Mr. Nduwayo invited Burundi [Burundians] to take auto-sufficiency [as heard] as a goal. He said our struggle was twofold. There is a struggle for peace and a struggle for development. To encourage these development efforts, Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo awarded the best breeders at the farm of Ruyange.

Talking about the peace and security situation prevailing in Burundi, Mr. Nduwayo announced that the cabinet will announce soon a plan of civil defense to counteract the actions of the killers. The prime minister said efforts are going to be placed on fight against terrorism. He said drastic measures are going to be taken in this direction. At this point, he particularly criticized civil servants who behave as if there was no war. [end recording]

Rwanda

Rwanda: UN Tribunal's Goldstone Seeks International Help

EA0404205096 Dar es Salaam Radio Tanzania External Service in English 1600 GMT 4 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Arusha: The chief prosecutor of the United Nations tribunal charged with trying people implicated in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, Justice Richard Goldstone, has appealed to the international community for help in carrying out its task. Justice Goldstone, a South African, said in a statement that there are only 24 investigators to look into the massacres in Rwanda.

He said another constraint to the tribunal's work is chronic shortage of interpreters and the lack of analysts to sit through the evidence. He said because of the inadequate resources available to his office, the global investigation into the organization of the genocide is being prejudiced.

So far, several countries, including the Cameroon, Zambia, Belgium, and Switzerland, have arrested a number of people suspected of complicity in the genocide, but because of lack of resources available to the tribunal, based in Arusha, no further action has been taken.

Rwanda: President's Office Clarifies Stand on Genocide Perpetrators

EA0404165696 Kigali Radio Rwanda in English 1145 GMT 4 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A press release from the president's office refutes reports from the media concerning the abolition of the death penalty, among others

[reports]. Following is the full text of the release: No amnesty for genocide perpetrators.

There have been reports in the media talking about the abolition of death penalty and life imprisonment concerning the punishment of the 1994 genocide, which is said to have been declared by the president of the Republic, His Excellency Pasteur Bizimungu. The Office of the President takes this opportunity to refute those reports misquoting the president's statement about the judicial process made on Tuesday, 2nd April, 1996. The Office of the President recalls that the only declarations made by his excellency the president of the Republic were related to the draft law which is being examined by the cabinet and which categorizes genocide criminals into four groups and stipulates the penalties for each category of offenders.

According to this draft law, which will soon be submitted to parliament, the first category of criminals includes the leaders who planned and perpetrated genocide. These criminals, once convicted, will face death penalty.

The second category comprises the majority of other killers in respect of whom the death penalty will be

waived. They will nevertheless be liable to imprisonment for a long period, unless they confess. Those who will confess shall have the sentences reduced.

The third category is made up of those who committed crimes of violence against a person, including rape and torture. Those too will be liable to imprisonment and shall also benefit from reduction of sentences upon confession.

As for the fourth category, which comprises people accused of crimes in connection with property issues, there will be no criminal charges by the government but they will pay civil damages.

The Office of the President once again reiterates the commitment of the government of national unity to build a new society based on the rule of law and to eradicate impunity, and it appeals for an end to misleading speculations on the issue of justice in this country.

Done at Kigali on 4th April 1996. Signed by President's Office

Somalia

Somalia: Ato Radio Reports 4 Apr Aidid Attacks in Mogadishu

EA0404182796 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice of Somali Pacification in Somali 1630 GMT 4 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for the USC-SNA [United Somali Congress-Somali National Alliance] has said that the self-appointed group [Aidid's faction], which has of late been preparing to start a war, today at 1245 [local time] launched unprovoked attacks on the USC-SNA army positions in Mogadishu.

The spokesman added that the militia of the self-appointed group attacked the USC-SNA army bases at the [former] American Embassy, university headquarters, Banaadir hospital, and (Donake) neighborhood. The spokesman said the USC-SNA forces carried out gallant counterattacks, repulsing the militia.

The spokesman called on the Somali people to keep away from the hostility being perpetrated by the self-appointed group. He once again appealed to communities whose technicals [pickups mounted with medium to heavy machine-guns] were being used by the self-appointed group to withdraw them.

The spokesman called on the misguided militia members to be aware of the general interests of the Somali people, because the past five years of civil war had taught us a lesson that there was no sense in shedding the blood of brother Somalis. The spokesman said the fighting was still going on and that the USC-SNA had inflicted huge losses on the self-appointed group.

Any developments in the fighting will be announced in our later programmes.

Somalia: BBC Reports Fighting Between Ato, Aidid Militias

AB0404161196 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 4 Apr 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The rivalry between the Somali factions of General Farah Aidid and his former banker,

Osman Ali Ato, has erupted in serious fighting in south Mogadishu, the country's capital. Last month, there were skirmishes and battles around the Port of Merca, south of Mogadishu, but both sides seemed anxious to contain the conflict. Obviously, they failed and the fighting in Mogadishu's southern districts of Benadir, Medina, and Difar has reportedly claimed many lives. From Mogadishu, Ali Musa Abdi faxed this report:

The fighting seems to have broken out after peace negotiations between the two rival factions became deadlocked. The sound of antiaircraft missiles and heavy machine-guns can be heard throughout the capital. At least two shells have hit the main Bacaraar market, injuring many and causing serious structural damage. Supporters of Osman Ato claim they have destroyed one armored vehicle and captured another and that they have successfully repulsed the attack by Aidid's men. Aidid's militias claim to have scored a victory over Ato, but there is no independent confirmation of any of these claims. Each side is accusing the other of starting the fighting. Residents of Mogadishu have been shocked by the renewed fighting and hundreds of people have been seen fleeing the area, carrying as many of their belongings as they are able. Many patients at the Digfa and Benadir hospitals have had to be evacuated.

Elders from both sides have been mediating between the two warring groups since fighting broke out over the port city of Merca. Gen. Aidid has placed the withdrawal of Ato's men from areas they occupy in south Mogadishu as a precondition for any peace talks. The new round of fighting comes on the day that a high-level delegation from the European Union is due to arrive in Mogadishu to meet Somali leaders.

South Africa: Zulu King Sends Peace Proposal Letter to Mandela

*MB0304203796 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2013 GMT 3 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JOHANNESBURG April 3 SAPA — Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini on Tuesday [2 April] suggested a programme for the proposed peace imbizo in a letter to President Nelson Mandela, royal spokesman Prince Sifiso Zulu said on Wednesday.

Zulu was speaking on SABC TV's Focus actuality programme on the peace imbizo, or meeting of the Zulu nation, proposed by Mandela to stop political violence in KwaZulu-Natal.

The imbizo was initially called for in 1994, and then again earlier this year after the Shoboshobane massacre in which 19 people were killed. Zulu did not divulge the exact contents of the letter "because the king wants the president and the other principals to see it first". He listed the other principals as KwaZulu-Natal African National Congress leader Jacob Zuma, KwaZulu-Natal premier Frank Mdlalose and IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] president Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

He did say the letter proposed a "wider (imbizo) negotiating team" with Zuma representing the ANC, Mandela the central government, Buthelezi the IFP and the king representing traditional leaders and the Zulu nation. Zulu said it was important the principals did not try to represent sectors they were excluded from.

"They can not do what Buthelezi does... He represents the IFP and then he speaks for the amakhosi and the indunas too. That is not acceptable," Zulu said. Buthelezi had in effect prevented the imbizo from going ahead when he demanded recognition as "traditional premier" of the Zulu nation and that international mediation on the constitution should take place before the IFP would participate.

He had also demanded that Mandela apologise for the 1994 Shell House killings in which Zulus demonstrating support for King Goodwill were shot in Johannesburg, some in front of the ANC's Shell House headquarters.

Before Buthelezi could be hailed as the traditional Zulu premier he would have to abdicate his party political position, Zulu said. A Zulu premier was a chief induna and was divorced, like the king, from politics. Any political alliance would divide the nation.

"Do you think he (Buthelezi) can unite the Zulu nation?" Zulu asked. King Goodwill had earlier asked Mandela to find a constitutional way to keep traditional leaders out of party politics, Zulu said. This contradicted

Buthelezi's call for greater autonomy for the amakhosi and indunas.

"Let the amakhosi be allowed to get out of party politics," Zulu said. He said the king hoped the imbizo would take place before the KwaZulu-Natal local government elections in May.

South Africa: Buthelezi Says IFP Not To Join Constitution Process

*MB0404122196 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1059 GMT 4 Apr 96*

[Report by Eleanor Momber]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town April 4 SAPA — To expect the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] to return to the constitution-making process at this late stage was a "very sick joke on the part of Cyril Ramaphosa", IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said on Thursday [4 April].

Reacting to the Constitutional Assembly [CA] chairman's statement earlier in the day that the IFP was welcome to return to the CA during the next four weeks, Buthelezi said there was "no intention on the part of the ANC that we should be there".

On Ramaphosa's statement that IFP Senator Ruth Rabinowitz was among several IFP members who had telephoned Arniston during the CA's Bosheraad [bush summit] to inquire about progress made with the Constitution, he said she was doing it on her own as a member of the public. "I cannot chide her for that," he said, but she had not been given a mandate by the party to monitor the proceedings.

Rabinowitz and others were interested in the proceedings and could inquire about it as all members of the public were allowed to do.

The IFP's national council decision that it would only return if international mediation was agreed to still remained in force. "We have never changed our decision," Buthelezi said in an interview with SAPA.

Because of the IFP's non-participation in the constitution-making process the new constitution would be "imposed on us" by the people who wrote it. "I don't think there can really be stability and peace because of the non-inclusivity of the whole process," he said.

One of the issues causing conflict in the KwaZulu/Natal provincial constitution was the position of the monarchy. That had been shelved and passed onto a commission for further investigation.

However, the matter could only be dealt with once an Act of Parliament recognising the Zulu monarchy had been passed. There was more reason now than ever before for international mediation, he said referring to a letter he had written to President Nelson Mandela last week about the imbizo [traditional Zulu gathering] and international mediation.

The agreement for international mediation between Buthelezi, Deputy President FW de Klerk and President Mandela in 1994 had facilitated the IFP's participation in the 1994 general election.

"All three of us...are men of honour. One can expect that should be honoured," he said.

Buthelezi said it looked as though the President "has closed his mind completely to honouring the agreement" that had been signed. However, he did not think President Mandela would want to go down in history for not ensuring that the constitution-making process was not inclusive.

"There is no way we are going to give respectability to that" by returning to the CA. The deadline for the new Constitution is May 9.

South Africa: Daily—Gauteng Cabinet Changes Take Portfolios Away From NP

MB0404142596 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 4 Apr 96 pp 1, 2

[Report by Karim Schimke]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A provincial cabinet "realignment" yesterday has relieved the National Party [NP] of the agriculture and welfare portfolios, [words indistinct] the party believes concentrates power in the hands of ANC members of the provincial executive council.

Premier Tokyo Sexwale took the opportunity of the swearing-in of the new National Party MEC [member of the Executive Council] Aboo Kahn to announce changes in the executive structure.

None of the MECs have been removed from the cabinet, but substantial changes were made in the alignment of portfolios. Most notable was the agriculture move, which has been given to Jabu Moleketi, who also controls finance and economic affairs, and the placement of welfare together with Peter Skosana's sport and recreation.

Welfare was formerly the domain of the NP in the hands of Sakkie Blanche, who has now been given the portfolio of public works and public media.

Education MEC Mary Metcalfe will continue administering her portfolio, while also handling culture, and

the housing and local government portfolio has been changed to housing and land affairs, but Dan Mofokeng remains MEC in this area. Sexwale said the reason for this change was to "fast-track housing delivery".

Local government has now been handed to Sicelo Shiceka, who will administer it together with development planning. Sexwale said "Part of Mr Shiceka's brief is to bring together all planning authorities to ensure co-ordinated planning and development."

The province's newest MEC, Aboo Kahn, will be in charge of conservation and environment. Sexwale said about this portfolio: "We have to ensure the management of hazardous waste and effluent and ensure the preservation of our environment." He said it was a critical portfolio in the province.

MECs Jessie Duarte (safety and security), Olaus van Zyl (public transport and roads) and Amos Masondo (health) are unaffected by the changes.

Denying allegations that the reshuffle took certain power away from the National Party, Sexwale said: "We have no NP ministries, or ANC ministries. The heads of portfolios are not chosen on the (strength of) party membership cards they carry in their back pockets. If I had thought any of the MECs were incompetent, I would have asked them to leave the cabinet."

He said public works and conservation, which have been given to NP executive members to handle, were "portfolios of the future", the first because it was the most important area for job creation and the second because industry around the world was developing in line with sound conservation and environmental principles.

"The changes were made following the demands of situations in departments, not because of non-performance. I consider the NP's new portfolios a vote of confidence."

The NP, however, did not agree and issued a strong statement about the reshuffle. "It is clear that there is a concentration of power under ANC MECs. This is a disturbing move to redraw the political lines in the government of provincial unity. We do not agree with the premier who has chosen to execute his right, in terms of the interim constitution, to vary the determination of specific portfolios. We believe a different allocation would have served the province and its specific needs better," said the NP.

The statement thanked Blanche for his "excellent work" as provincial welfare MEC and said he was "leaving behind a very good department". Blanche could not comment as he was on his way to the airport. He will be out of the country for about 10 days.

The Democratic Party's [DP] response was one of surprise. "The premier should have used this opportunity to get rid of the ministers who are not performing and bring in new blood. Instead, he has overloaded those ministries which perform well and let those that don't perform off the hook with a lighter load," said DP member of the provincial legislature Ian Davidson.

The "nonsense" portfolios given to the NP were a slap in the face, he added.

South Africa: Daily—'Confusion' in RDP Offices Following Cabinet Reshuffle

MB0404200996 Johannesburg MAIL & GUARDIAN in English 4-11 Apr 96 p 4

[Article by Gaye Davis]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Government plans to radically revise the Reconstruction and Development Programme [RDP] could face a backlash — not so much against what has been decided, but because of the lack of consultation which preceded it.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki is to appoint a task force to oversee the reallocation of the RDP's projects, programmes and staff to various line-ministries. His representative, Thami Ntenti, said this emerged from a meeting between Mbeki and outgoing RDP Minister Jay Naidoo on Tuesday [2 April]. The task force would have to work fast: "We expect to see some movement after the Easter weekend," he said.

Ntenti said that as the decision to close the RDP office, hand the fund over to the finance ministry and shift its responsibilities to departments was a presidential one, complaints about a lack of consultation were not relevant.

But there are rumblings within the African National Congress, its alliance partners, the South African Communist Party and Congress of South African Trade Unions, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) about the way the decision was arrived at. RDP staffers were thrown into confusion and uncertainty about their futures with last Thursday's "bombshell" announcement that the RDP office was to be closed. This week they were questioning the suddenness of the move and asking whether a phased approach would not have been wiser.

"The decision may be the right one, but how was it arrived at? There needs to have been discussion — and there wasn't," an ANC national executive committee member said.

It had been crucial to find a better way of co-ordinating the RDP so that it amounted to more than a fistful of

presidential lead projects. However, there were concerns that the new move could see the development and social aspects of the RDP getting lost and fiscal policy and economic growth concerns, while important, becoming overly dominant.

"These things needed to be part of a debate and were not," the source said. The lack of consultation will be taken up from many quarters, by NGOs and the alliance. There are real pressures on government, but there is also ongoing frustration about consultation, transparency, and where we are going."

There was a lack of clarity this week whether Mbeki would assume political responsibility for the RDP. Naidoo's director of communications, Mandy Jean Woods, referred queries about the RDP's future to Mbeki's office, as he was the "new chief". But Mbeki's spokesperson, Ricky Naidoo, denied Mbeki's responsibility extended beyond overseeing the re-allocation of programmes.

Gavin Lewis, editor of the independent newsletter RDP Monitor, said it was critical the RDP had a political head. "Not all line departments have been transformed into vigorous development bodies," he said.

He believed the decision was a case of "office politics gone mad", negotiated between Mbeki and Mandela behind closed doors at the last moment. "If they had thought it through, a transitional plan would be in place," he said.

"What will happen to NGOs [that are] supposed to access funds through the RDP office? Who must they approach?"

Naidoo instructed staffers to say he would not be giving interviews until he assumed his new portfolio — he replaces Pallo Jordan as minister of posts, telecommunications and broadcasting — on Thursday. His communications staff were this week fielding calls from provincial RDP offices seeking clarity on their future.

In one of his last acts as RDP chief this week, Naidoo launched South Africa's first post-apartheid census, scheduled for October, on which R365-million [rands] will be spent to provide the data necessary for detailed RDP planning.

The Central Statistical Service is one of the parastatals which falls under the RDP office: its relocation as well as that of the Central Economic Advisory Service and myriad other functions of the RDP office will be thrashed out by the task group.

These include the core functions of project management, development planning and facilitation, and the coordination of international aid grants.

Mbeki reassured employees by saying at the weekend that as they had been employed to administer the presidential lead projects, and that these would continue, their jobs were secure. But staffers this week were uncertain whether they would be able to remain in the same locations or faced transfers.

Naidoo's problem was that his job was to tread on the toes of every minister. For a junior minister with a trade union, rather than ANC, background, this proved problematic. Line ministries continued spending on their core functions and it rapidly became clear there was a need for aligned, integrated strategies for development that involved all of government rather than just a section of it.

Naidoo took lots of undeserved flak: departments, rather than the RDP ministry, were often responsible for lack of delivery.

Foreign observers have read Naidoo's transfer as a demotion and a sign that the RDP has failed. They questioned whether Mbeki, if he took over as political head of the RDP, would be able to deliver. It's a big test for him said one source. He seems to have problems dealing with what he has had to do in the past.

It's not about the failure of the programme or the office," said RDP spokesman Connie Malusi. "Programmes are on track. There have been time lags in terms of negotiating our way around treasury rules and developing capacity at provincial level, but concrete projects have been implemented."

While line departments are already in the process of taking on responsibility for various RDP functions, there is a general view that for a development plan as ambitious and unprecedented as the RDP to succeed it will need to be overseen by someone with political clout.

This could be ideal for Mbeki who has yet to be seen to make his mark. As deputy president he is over shadowed by Mandela: his achievements are seen as the presidents.

Highly regarded as an astute politician, he has been criticised for surrounding himself with poor advisers.

But his recent appointment of people such as Frank Chikane and Luci Nyembe — definitely not pushovers — has been welcomed.

South African Press Review for 4 Apr

MB0404140396

[FBIS Report]

MAIL & GUARDIAN

Criticism of Mandela's Cabinet Reshuffle Approach — A page-24 editorial in Johannesburg MAIL & GUARDIAN in English for 4-11 April comments on the dismissal from Cabinet of Posts and Telecommunications Minister Pallo Jordan, saying it was a "moment which marked a major shift in the political style and approach of the African National Congress." "This is the second time Mandela has moved against a member of his inner circle, the first being his wife's dismissal as deputy minister. On both occasions, he acted not because of the lack of ability of the individual involved, but because each stood up to him." "A tradition of consulting, of collective leadership, died with this Cabinet reshuffle. So now we have an ANC under Mandela and Mbeki which prizes loyalty and obedience above competence; one concerned less with choosing the best person for the job than with selecting the person who can deliver the strongest support base."

SOWETAN

PAC's 'Diminishing' Influence — "Over the years the PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] has been seriously weakened by a lack of clear direction and internal strife," notes a page-10 editorial in Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 4 April. "Many who support the party will without doubt be worried about whether, given its present state and past performance, the party does in fact have a future." Outside the party most South Africans who would like to see the country's democracy deepened and strengthened, "will be concerned not only by the diminishing influence of the PAC but also by the absence of a viable political alternative to the ANC, whose popularity at present is beyond question. If the current situation persists, democracy will be the ultimate loser."

Angola

Angola: UNITA Communique Notes 'Dismay' Over Killing of UN Observers

MB0404205096 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 4 Apr 96

[Communique issued by the UNITA Permanent Commission in Luanda on 3 April]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was with greatest dismay that the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] learned about the death of two UN Angola Verification Mission-3 [Unavem-3] observers and a British nongovernmental organization official along the Cubal-Benguela road on 3 April 1996.

On behalf of its militants, the UNITA Permanent Commission, would like to condemn in strongest terms this act of pure vandalism which in no way advances the ongoing peace process, which is already very complex. The UNITA Permanent Commission would like to request the United Nations to carry out a thorough investigation to identify [passage indistinct] British nongovernmental organization, and the bereaved families.

[Issued] Luanda, 3 April 1996.

[Signed] The UNITA Permanent Commission.

Botswana

Botswana: 'Mysterious' Political Movement Said To Threaten Leaders

MB0404143296 Gaborone THE MIDWEEK SUN in English 20 Mar 96 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A mysterious political movement, unheard of before, calling itself Revolutionary United Front of Botswana has sent an ultimatum to the government with a list of demands to be met before April 1, 1996 if an all-out war is to be avoided.

Reports reaching THE MIDWEEK SUN indicate that on March 12, 1996 the Office of the President received an

anonymous statement (a copy of which this paper has) in which the movement accuses the leadership of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) of enriching themselves through corrupt means instead of "struggling" like other Batswana.

The statement goes on to charge that Cabinet Ministers and some Members of Parliament found a short cut from poverty to wealth by milking the National Development Bank [NDB], Botswana Housing Corporation and other public institutions.

The statement also laments the BDP's poor performance record since it came to power, citing rampant poverty in Botswana as a result of the party's failure to develop rural areas in the past thirty years.

In its ultimatum, the movement demands among other things that Cabinet Ministers and other BDP politicians settle their debts with the NDB before 1st April this year. If this demand is not met by this date the movement threatens to start a vicious guerilla campaign meant to oust the BDP through the use of tactics employed by HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement], the PLO, the ANC, and other guerilla movements.

Sources in the Office of the President reveal that the statement was first sent to the District Commissioner's office in Mochudi from where it was immediately forwarded to Gaborone.

Mozambique

Mozambique: 6,400 Land Mines Defused in Moamba, Sabie

MB0404205196 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 4 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A total of 6,400 land mines have been defused by a mechanized system in the capital of Moamba District and Sabie Administrative Post in Maputo Province. The five-month operation began last September. This quantity of defused mines represents half the number of mines destroyed in two years throughout the national territory. [passage omitted]

Benin

Benin: New President's Government Program Viewed

AB0404225096 Cotonou Office de
Radiodiffusion-Television du Benin Radio in French
1930 GMT 4 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The question every Beninese is asking is what President Kerekou has really got to offer the Beninese people. Well, all we can do is scan his government program with Anicet Quenum:

[Quenum] When you read the pamphlet: Preparing the Benin of Tomorrow, you will be fully informed about the guidelines of the government program that President Kerekou intends to implement during his term of office. His priorities include youth, employment, salaries of permanent state employees, housing, quality of life in the rural and urban areas, farmers' income, health, education, transport, culture, entertainment, sports, and security. The list is long but perhaps not impossible to implement. Each of these priorities will be examined at a national economic conference to be attended by all the active forces of Benin.

In what can be called a package of proposals in these times of crisis, among other principles to be reexamined, the general enumerated the pre-eminence of constitutional legality, respect for the rules of the democratic game, ensuring morality in public life, which implies the fight against corruption and illicit acquisition of wealth. In this regard, and I quote, there must be laws on determining the external signs of illicit acquisition of wealth by top state functionaries, and the government must apply them rigorously and without any indulgence. [no end quote as heard]

Another commitment of the president-elect is his intention to make man the center of the economy and take the unemployment problem by the horns. In this regard, President Kerekou plans to create regional development poles and industrial units that will enable the development of new agricultural and industrial activities. [words indistinct]. He also intends to improve the institutional and legal framework, making it simpler and more attractive for national and foreign investors.

Public administration will also be renovated. It will be reorganized for more efficiency. To achieve this aim, the chameleon [nickname for Kerekou] proposes, and I quote, a reduction in the state's lifestyle by bringing the ministries down to a number that will be in conformity with a real policy of austerity. [no end quote as heard]

Reforms in favor of the most vulnerable levels of society will also be undertaken. In his government program, Mathieu Kerekou has promised to find a

compromise between the inevitable demands of rigorous management of public hospitals and the humanitarian vocation that should be theirs. Leaving nothing to chance, the new president of Benin also wants to ensure justice for all, make the Army contribute to the national development, and promote a diplomacy that is in the service of development and regional integration. In short, although this is a profession of faith, it deserves respect. It is time to put the new president's word to the test.

Ghana

Ghana: Accra Asks U.S. To Rethink 'Unacceptable' Trade Law

AB0404194996 Accra Ghana Broadcasting
Corporation Radio Network in English
1800 GMT 4 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ghana has appealed to the U.S. Government to review the Helms-Burton Law in the interest of free trade and respect for the sovereignty of all countries. A statement, issued today by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said much as Ghana recognizes the United States' sovereign right to make laws in the interest of the country, the Government of Ghana considers the extra-territorial effect of the law unacceptable.

The statement noted that not only does it undermine the sovereignty of other countries but also violates the principles of international law on free trade.

Ghana: Rawlings, Dutch Foreign Minister on UN Rapid Reaction Force

AB0404193196 Accra Ghana Broadcasting
Corporation Radio Network in English
1300 GMT 4 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president, Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, today held talks with the Dutch deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Hans van Mierlo, at the Castle Osu. They discussed peacekeeping and bilateral relations. Tina Tehoda reports:

[Begin Tehoda recording] Mr. Mierlo's visit is his first to Africa and it is to get him acquainted with the continent as the Netherlands prepares for the presidency of the European Union next year. Ghana is his first stop. The Dutch, in collaboration with 22 other countries, are working on a rapid reaction force under the auspices of the United Nations as a stand-by force for conflicts around the world. Mr. Mierlo, therefore, wanted Ghana's views on the idea, and if the country is prepared to contribute in realizing it. He said his country admired Ghana's role in the handling of the Liberian

crisis and wanted to learn her experience to set a global force.

President Rawlings welcomed the idea, saying it is long overdue even though it is better late than never. This is because after the failure of the peacekeeping initiative in Somalia, if there was a rapid reaction force, Rwandan genocide would have been prevented or contained. President Rawlings said there is, indeed, the need to work out a comprehensive global solution to political and social issues.

The minister of foreign affairs, Dr. Obed Asamoah, said the Netherlands have given extensive support to Ghana's economic reform program as well as debt relief. He said the two countries already have an investment guarantee agreement and are now working on an agreement on double taxation. [end recording]

Liberia

Liberia: Shoot-Out Feared Around Johnson's Home; Locals Flee

AB0404184796 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 4 Apr 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Announcer] Only hours are left before the midnight deadline expires for Roosevelt Johnson, the ousted ULIMO-J [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia-Johnson] rebel leader in Liberia, to give himself up and face murder charges. Johnson was dismissed by a number of his commanders last month. He also lost his ministerial post, but clashes between his forces and supporters of rival commanders have continued. Two weeks ago, there were skirmishes outside Johnson's house in Monrovia's Sinkor District, and two people died. A warrant was issued for Johnson's arrest, but he's remained in his house surrounded by bodyguards. Now, there are fears of a shoot-out tonight and it has started an exodus of local people, as Nyenati Allison reports in this telex from Monrovia:

The residents started fleeing with bundles of foam mattresses, bed parts, and household utensils following a radio broadcast, urging them to vacate the area within 24 hours and warning that those who may wish to stay do so at their own risk. Johnson has remained holed up in his beach house in Sinkor, while bands of Krahn supporters roam the neighborhood, hurling insults at the government and turning away visitors. Others with nowhere to flee were this afternoon seen sitting beside piles of personal effects on the sidewalks. African peacekeeping troops backed by armored personnel carriers remained in positions at checkpoints around Johnson's home. The current standoff around

Johnson's home followed the unprecedented arrest of Bishop Diggs of Liberia's Interfaith Committee. He'd been trying to act as a go-between. Bishop Ronald Diggs, who served briefly as vice president to former interim President Amos Sawyer, was later charged in court for hindering justice by allegedly inciting Johnson to resist arrest. A radio broadcast last night said the government had dropped the charges. No reasons were given.

[Announcer] Meanwhile, a local youth leader in the Sinkor District of Monrovia, John Y. Brownell, has called us up to express concern about the developments around Roosevelt Johnson's house. Robin White asked him what they feared:

[Begin recording] [Brownell] My protest here is that we are talking about the peace [words indistinct] within Monrovia. If you have one bullet to be fired within Monrovia, (?I am afraid) that you know, this city is overcrowded, Robin, and that this will cause problems for lives of millions of people.

[White] But do you think that is the plan — to go and start shooting to get Mr. Johnson out?

[Brownell] Well, precisely because if you ask people to leave an area you know, then we think....[pauses] We can be right in our thinking to say that there will be shooting going on.

[White] So are people moving?

[Brownell] People are moving. People are moving. People are (?toting) their load. They don't know where they are going to. We think this is not healthy.

[White] And you said people are moving. How many people are moving?

[Brownell] Robin, the people within the Sinkor area, they are in their hundreds, okay, because Monrovia is overcrowded. They are in their hundreds.

[White] Doesn't Mr. Johnson have a lot of support in the Sinkor area?

[Brownell] The area is crowded. I am not connected with Mr. Johnson to know whether he has support there, but I am talking about the civilian population.

[White] But I mean, wouldn't it be more sensible for you to go and knock on Mr. Johnson's door and tell him to get out of it in order to save everybody trouble?

[Brownell] Robin, we are not (?close) with the authority to go and tell Mr. Johnson to surrender. Mr. Johnson is a warring faction here, okay? So, we can't tell any faction here what to do. All we are asking them is what they do, their action should not be violent. [end recording]

Nigeria

Nigeria: International Understanding Sought for Transition Program

AB0404163896 Paris AFP in English
1629 GMT 04 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abuja, April 4 (AFP) — Nigeria's military government Thursday [4 April] asked the international community to understand its three-year transition programme to civilian rule.

"We ask for more understanding and wish to assure them that this administration holds dearly the virtues of open government", declared the regime's number-two man, Lieutenant-General Oladipo Diya.

"Dialogue, rather than confrontation or blackmail, should be employed," he said.

"Rather than resort to provocative actions and measures that will be injurious to our mutual interest, our foreign friends should see the current progress being made in our transition programme as an inducement to them to invest their trust in our inherent capability as a nation to solve our problems ourselves," he stated.

His statement came as a UN team was investigating the regime's plan to return the nation to democracy by October 1998.

The international community has been pressing for an early return to civil rule, rather than the three-year transition programme which the regime started implementing in phases since last October.

The Commonwealth last November gave the regime two years to return Nigeria to democratic rule, while the US State Department last weekend expressed deep concern at what it described as the "lack of progress in the transition to democracy in Nigeria."

But Diya, who was briefing journalists accredited to the presidency, stated that local government (municipal) elections last month was a proof of the regime's commitment to democratic process.

The election is a key step in the regime's transition programme, scheduled to culminate in the military handing over power, in October 1998, to an elected civilian president.

Nigeria: Interest Groups, Envoys Testify to UN Fact-Finding Team

AB0404191896 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 4 Apr 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Opposition groups and human rights organizations in Nigeria, as well as the wives

and families of imprisoned politicians, have almost been falling over each other in their enthusiasm to meet the visiting United Nations fact-finding team. The team issued a general invitation which has been accepted by a lot of interest groups, and the UN visitors have had a first-hand taste of local police tactics. From Lagos, Sola Odunfa reports:

[Begin Odunfa recording] Today, the long line of people who met with the team included detainees' wives Kudiratu Abiola, Fumi Falana, and Ganiat Fawehinmi. They all complained of lack of access to their husbands in their various prisons and inadequate care for the men's health. Mrs. Fawehinmi brought video tapes, wall posters, pamphlets, and texts of speeches by her husband to try to prove to the UN team, according to her, that her husband was a political detainee and not a criminal. They all pleaded with the UN team to intervene for the release of their husbands. The National Conscience Party, founded by Chief Gani Fawehinmi, and the human rights group, Campaign for Democracy, also submitted memoranda to the UN team today.

The ambassadors of Canada, France, the United States, Russia, Italy, Brazil, Sudan, and South Africa made dramatic appearances before the team this morning. They did not tell journalists what memoranda or evidence they gave, but the Italian ambassador, Umberto Plaza, said on his way out of the hotel that he gave the example of General Bio in Sierra Leone to show that Nigeria's transition to democratic civil rule could be accomplished in much shorter time than the three years stipulated by the military government.

There was a short drama at the meeting venue yesterday when the police tried to stop a delegation of the opposition National Democratic Coalition, NADECO, from meeting the UN team. When the team's rapporteur, Mr. (Amer Arime), insisted that the NADECO people were invited, the police requested two of the NADECO leaders to follow them to police headquarters to clarify certain things. The NADECO leaders shouted that that was a ploy to arrest and detain them. They demanded protection by the United Nations. The rapporteur then agreed to accompany them to police headquarters. They all returned 35 minutes later and the NADECO delegation made their submission to the UN team in private like others. [end recording]

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